

Robert William Ashby was born on October 22, 1922 in Richland Township, Jasper Co, IA and died peacefully at his farm home in Rock Creek Township, Jasper Co, on December 23, 2015, with his loving wife at his side. The son of Henry and Edythe (Burnham) Ashby, he grew up in the years of the Great Depression. His father died when he was just 17 and Bob began farming the family farm. Money was tight and of necessity he learned to repair or make almost anything he needed. He used those skills throughout his long life as he became a successful grain and livestock farmer. He graduated from Grinnell High School in 1941, and was united in marriage to Mary Margaret Ruble in 1949, a union which lasted 66 years. His priorities in life were God and family. Bob was a member of the Bethel United Methodist Church and Grinnell United Methodist Church. He had a lifelong interest in history and was an avid bridge player. A loving husband and father, he is survived by his wife, two sons, Michael (Deborah) of rural Gilman and Dennis (Carolyn) of Des Moines, 4 grandchildren, Courtney (Jamie) Renshaw, Chase (Mary) Ashby, Angelina (Greg) Willard and Elizabeth (Scott) Fuchser, 9 great-grandchildren with two more great-grandsons on the way, a sister, Margaret VanderKamp, a brother, Alfred (Betty), sister-in-law, Virginia Ashby, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Harry, and brother-in-law, Melvin VanderKamp. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, January 6, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at the Grinnell United Methodist Church, Grinnell, IA, with a luncheon and fellowship to follow. Memorials may be directed to Grinnell United Methodist Church.

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